



Name: _____ Date: _____

Antigone: Prologue and Scenes 1–2, page 648

Vocabulary: Context Clues and Word Origins

Antigone was originally written in Greek. It was later translated into Latin, and, among many other languages, modern English. Modern English is probably the richest language of all because it is made up of words borrowed from many other languages throughout the centuries, including Greek and Latin.

Consider the origins, or roots, of vocabulary words from *Antigone*. First, analyze the italicized root words given below each of the following passages. Which modern English word do you think was formed from each root or pair of roots? Fill in the blank with the word from the box that best completes each sentence.

anarchists	comprehensive	conscience	compulsive	insolence	lithe
meddling	reverence	vengeance	waver		

Example

Have they told you of the new decree of our King Creon?

Latin *de* + *cretum*

1. And I think it is dangerous business / To be always _____.
Old English *medlen*
2. But whoever shows by word and deed that he is on the side of the State—he
shall have my respect while he is living, and my _____ when he
is dead.
Latin *revereri*
3. A _____ defense!
Latin *com* + *prehendere*
4. No, from the very beginning / There have been those who have whispered
together, / Stiff-necked _____, putting their heads together, /
Scheming against me in alleys.
Greek *anarchos*
5. Are you sure that it is my voice, and not your _____?
Latin *conscientia*



6. The lightboned birds and beasts that cling to cover, / The
_____ fish lighting their reaches of dim water, / All are taken,
tamed in the net of his mind;
Old English *lithe*
7. I have seen this gathering sorrow from time long past / Loom upon Oedipus's
children: generation from generation / Takes the _____ rage of
the enemy god.
Latin *compulsionem*
8. This girl is guilty of a double _____, / Breaking the given laws
and boasting of it.
Latin *insolescere*
9. Grief teaches the steadiest minds to _____, King.
Middle English *waveren*
10. Fortunate is the man who has never tasted God's _____!
Old French *vengier*